THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) India does not have any Merchant Marine Act. It has an Act named The Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, which deals *inter-alia* with matters relating to registration, safety and manning of fishing vessels. Two meetings have already been held with the fisheries associations, other agencies of the Government of India and the concerned State Governments where matters pertaining to fishing sector falling under this Act including safety of fishing vessels and training of fishermen for enabling them to get jobs in merchant navy were discussed. These interactions are a continuous process.

(d) The Government is considering ratification of Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Fishing Vessel Personnel (STCW-F) and Torremolinos Protocol, 1993 which will streamline and promote the growth of fishing sector.

Sagar Mala Project

†482. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any schemes for construction during 2004-05 under the Sagar Mala Project;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) the total amount likely to be spent on implementation of above schemes; and

(d) the details of the schemes related to the expansion of domestic waterways under the above schemes?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Pursuant to the announcement on 'Sagar Mala' made by the then Prime Minister on 15th August, 2003, an outline of the Programme was prepared and in anticipation of Government approval therefor, an outlay of Rs. 24.48 crores was provided in Interim Budget for 2004-05 for activities to be taken up under the programme and the proposal for approval of the Competent Authority to the outline of the Programme could not be processed to its finality. The outlay of Rs. 24.48 crores for the Programme has been retained in the Main Budget 2004-05.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Schemes relating to domestic waterways were included in the outline of the Programme. Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) are to be prepared after approval of the outline of the Programme by the Competent Authority.

Kochi Fishing Harbour

483. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal for the development of Kochi Fishing Harbour;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount required for the completion of development work;

(d) whether any fund has been released for the project; and

(e) if so, the details thereof alongwith the details of the present status of the project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A proposal of Cochin Port Trust for construction of a major fishing harbour was approved by Government of India under the Central Plan scheme in June, 1971 with 100% financial assistance. The revised project cost of Rs. 493.60 lakhs was approved in November, 1986. After the completion of the stage-I development in order to ease the congestion and over crowding of the existing fishing harbour, the proposal of Cochin Port Trust for stage-II expansion of the fishing harbour was also approved by Government of India in December, 1993 at a total cost of Rs. 77 lakhs, which was subsequently revised to Rs. 100 lakh in April, 1996.

Subsequent to this, in February, 2001 Cochin Port Trust had submitted a proposal for stage-III expansion of the fishing harbour at an estimated cost of Rs. 441.836 lakhs. The facilities envisaged in the third stage expansion include construction of a Lay-By Jetty, providing raised platform in the auction hall etc. After scrutiny of the proposal, the Port Trust was requested in April, 2001 to formulate Detailed Project Report (DPR) based on necessary engineering and economic investigations and also hydraulic model studies, if necessary and the DPR is awaited.